

The independent nonprofit that saves, preserves, and shares New Hampshire history.

NEWS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 10, 2009

PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE

CONTACT: Donna-Belle Garvin at 603-856-0642 or Joan Desmarais at 603-856-0603

NEW PUBLICATION WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

CONCORD, NH—Whatever hobby the friends and relatives on your holiday gift list enjoy most—whether winter sports, genealogy, art, wilderness travel, New Hampshire history, or reading in general—the newly released issue of *Historical New Hampshire*, or perhaps a year’s subscription to the magazine, could prove an ideal gift this year for all.

In the cover story, “New Hampshire and the Emergence of an American Ski Industry,” Jeffrey Leich, executive director of the New England Ski Museum in Franconia, N.H., explores the many ways in which the Granite State led the rest of the nation in the development of recreational downhill skiing from the 1930s to the 1950s. New Hampshire’s pioneering efforts included cutting downhill trails, new forms of downhill competition, ski-lift innovations, ski-patrol development, slope-grooming techniques, ski instruction, ski-resort planning, skiing safety legislation, and winter-tourism promotion. All this and more is presented in this richly illustrated article, including several ski posters pictured in color.

This is followed by an article examining the remarkable artwork of a little-known, late-18th-century New Hampshire calligrapher. Donna-Belle Garvin, director of publications at the New Hampshire Historical Society, here identifies the artist as a Candia and Farmington schoolteacher who used his professional skills to produce decorative genealogical registers for local families, thereby supplementing the meager teacher’s salary of his time. The examples of his work, many shown in color, are from private folk art collections, local historical societies, and major collecting institutions such as the National Archives.

Concluding the issue is an article that for the first time publishes two drawings, dating from 1833, that are believed to be the earliest non-scientific on-site sketches of the Old Man of the Mountain. In “Face to Face: Fanny Appleton and the Old Man of the Mountain,” Diana Korzenik, professor emerita at the Massachusetts College of Art, explores the influences on the artist, a fifteen-year-old girl from an affluent

Boston family. Korzenik demonstrates how Fanny Appleton's art training and exposure, along with the travel fashions and the growing national spirit of her time, put her in a position to create this pioneering pair of drawings.

The New Hampshire Historical Society has published *Historical New Hampshire* since 1944. Each issue contains a variety of articles about a past, as well as reviews of recent books of state and local interest. *Historical New Hampshire* is a benefit of membership in the New Hampshire Historical Society. Individual copies are available for purchase through the New Hampshire Historical Society store for \$11.45 (including shipping). To order a copy or to subscribe by becoming a member, call 603-856-0625, email store@nhhistory.org, or visit online at nhhistory.org.

Founded in 1823, the New Hampshire Historical Society is the independent nonprofit that saves, preserves, and shares New Hampshire history. The Society serves thousands of children and adults each year through its museum, library, educational programs, publications, and outreach programs. The Society is not a state-funded agency. All of its programs and services are made possible by membership dues and contributions. For more information on the Society and the benefits of membership, visit nhhistory.org or call 603-228-6688.

###